

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 SSO-00 AID-05 SP-02 EB-07 INR-07 NSC-05

NSCE-00 ISO-00 SAM-01 H-02 INRE-00 /055 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7300

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 10464

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TPHY OSCI EG

SUBJECT: MRS. SADAT AND AISHA RATEB'S CONFUSION

ABOUT US SUPPORT FOR WAFA WA AMAL PROJECT

REF CAIRO 10340

1. SINCE I CONTINUED TO FEEL UNEASY HOW MINISTER SOCIAL AFFAIRS AISHA RATEB HAD CONVEYED THE SUBSTANCE OF MY TALK WITH HER RE USG SUPPORT FOR WAFA WA AMAL (FAITH AND HOPE) REPORTED REFTEL, I CONCLUDED IT WAS BEST TO DISCUSS THE MATTER DIRECTLY WITH MRS. SADAT SO THAT THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT OUR POSITION. I HAD A CHANCE TO DO THIS TODAY WHEN I MET WITH MRS. SADAT FOR AN HOUR TO DISCUSS SCHEDULES FOR THE UPCOMING VISIT.

2. I WAS GLAD I DID SO, SINCE IT TURNED OUT THAT MINISTER RATEB HAD NOT YET REPORTED OUR TALK TO MRS. SADAT AND THE FIRST LADY WAS STILL UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT A "PEOPLE TO PEOPLE" GIFT OF THE COMPLETED HOSPITAL WOULD BE PRESENTED. AS GENTLY AS I COULD, I POINTED OUT THAT SOME MISUNDERSTANDING HAD APPARENTLY DEVELOPED ON BOTH SIDES DURING MINISTER RATEB'S PERTINENT TALKS WITH USG OFFICIALS. WHILE OUR PEOPLE WERE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PROJECT, THEY HAD NOT INTENDED TO CONVEY THE IMPRESSION THAT THE USG WILL FINANCE THE ENTIRE PROJECT. WE DEEPLY REGRET THE INADVERTENT CONFUSION AND WANT AGAIN TO ASSURE MRS. SADAT OF OUR GENUINE INTEREST IN THE PROJECT. AS I WAS SURE SHE WOULD RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THE  
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PROSPECTS OF OBTAINING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR A MODEL

CENTER SUCH AS THE Wafa Wa Amal IS INTENDED TO BE ARE NOT VERY GOOD, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT IS OF A TYPE THAT CANNOT BE AFFORDED IN MANY PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES. TO TRY TO PUSH THIS MATTER COULD SIMPLY HURT OUR AID OBJECTIVES FOR EGYPT.

3. IN TELLING HER THIS, I RECALLED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S FREQUENT EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR THE Wafa Wa Amal CONCEPT AND ASSURED HER WE ARE ACTIVELY LOOKING AT WAYS AND MEANS TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT. I MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF USING PART OF CIP LOANS AND OUR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUND TO PURCHASE HARD CURRENCY EQUIPMENT. WE ARE ALSO EXPLORING POSSIBLE PRIVATE FOUNDATION INTEREST AND LOOKING AT OTHER PROSPECTS. I WANTED HER TO BE ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT WE WILL DO EVERYTHING FEASIBLE TO HELP MOVE IT FORWARD.

4. MRS. SADAT TOOK MY REMARKS VERY WELL AND WAS APPRECIATIVE. SHE SAID IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE TO HAVE HAD SUCH A "PEOPLE TO PEOPLE" GIFT OF THE HOSPITAL, BUT ALSO RECOGNIZED THE PROBLEMS I HAD MENTIONED. SHE SAID SHE WOULD NOT WANT TO APPEAR TO BE BEGGING AND, IF IT IS NOT CONVENIENT, WE NEED NOT TROUBLE OURSELVES ABOUT TRYING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE PROJECT IN CONNECTION WITH THE UPCOMING VISIT. (IT WAS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT SHE WOULD LIKE SOME KIND OF HELP TO COME OUT OF THE VISIT.) SHE WAS SURE WE MEAN IT WHEN WE SAY WE WILL LOOK FOR WAYS TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT AND LEAVES THE MATTER ENTIRELY TO US. IF SHE CAN GET SOME AMERICAN HELP, SHE WOULD LIKE TO SHAME THE "RICH ARABS" IN PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

5. COMMENT: IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER MINISTER RATEB WAS ACTING ON MRS. SADAT'S SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS OR WHETHER THE GOOD MINISTER SIMPLY DECIDED TO TRY TO SCORE A COUP OF HER OWN BY COMING BACK WITH A TOTAL HOSPITAL PACKAGE. I SUSPECT SHE WAS INSTRUCTED TO TAKE SOUNDINGS AND CHOSE TO TAKE THE BIT IN HER TEETH AND RAN TOO FAR. I THINK THE ISSUE IS NOW AMICABLY RESOLVED, AT LEAST WITH MRS. SADAT, WITHOUT ANY EMBARRASSMENT TO EITHER SIDE, BUT SUBMIT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE FIND SOME WAY TO PROVIDE TANGIBLE SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT DURING THE UPCOMING ANNOUNCED SADAT VISIT. MY RECOMMENDATIONS ARE CONTAINED IN CAIRO 10341.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSTRUCTION, FINANCE, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, HOSPITALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Reference:** 75 CAIRO 10340  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MRS. SADAT AND AISHA RATEB'S CONFUSION ABOUT US SUPPORT FOR WAFA WA AMAL PROJECT  
**TAGS:** TPHY, OSCI, EG, US, FAITH & HOPE SOCIETY, WAFA WA AMAL, (SADAT, ANWAR)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006